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News

Eastern Illinois University
CHARLESTON, ILL. • 317-581-3888
HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications

December 8, 1980
L/A/M/HT

1547

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL --Students enrolled in a Study of Biotic Communities' class in the spring semester at Eastern Illinois University will "warm-up" for the course in Louisiana during the break between semesters.

They will be looking for red-cockaded woodpeckers--an endangered species--in Louisiana's national forests. According to Dr. Douglas Zimmerman, a faculty member in the Department of Botany, the U.S. Forest Service needs baseline data on the distribution and preferred habitat of the woodpeckers.

The students have been employed by an environmental consulting company, Commonwealth Associates of Jackson, Mich., to make the study and to present findings to the Forest Service. Long term goal of the Service is to insure the preservation of the species through habitat management.

Before the southern trip, a Commonwealth Associates' representative J. M. Bridges, an Eastern alumnus, will train students and faculty in methods the company uses in such studies. In addition to paying the students, the firm will provide all housing and transportation for faculty and students. The field work is scheduled for Dec. 27-Jan. 15.

After the bird survey has been completed, students plan to make plant and animal studies on an individual basis in the forests near Alexandria, La. Results of these studies will be prepared for publication, Zimmerman said.

Students enrolled in the Biotic Communities course have been meeting since early November in preparation for the field experience.

add 1
Study of Biotic Communities class trip

Major emphasis of the course is in the field study of plant and animal populations within North American biotic communities.

Dates for the field trip are Dec. 27-Jan. 15. Faculty members going are Zimmerman, Dr. John Ebinger, and Dr. Richard Andrews.

Students involved by hometown are:

David Burnette, Belleville; Randy Butler, Forrest; Alice Dunn, Mattoon; Ron Easter, Charleston and Robert Morrow, Charleston; Peter Jaeger, Bourbonnais; Val Keener, Albion; Katherine Lawrence, Elgin.

Larry Lehnen, Nokomis; Paul Lock, Richardson, Texas; Dawn Lutz, Pawnee; Tanya Minton, Aurora; Greg Oseland, Lena; Mark Phipps, Shelbyville; Steve Priebe, Tremont; and Sue Stucker, Westmont.